

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, UN, US

SUBJECT: APARTHEID COMMITTEE PROTEST

REF: USUN 1654

1. IN RESPONDING TO LETTER FROM APARTHEID COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN CISSE ON INCIDENT AT HEINEMANN ELECTRIC (SA),
MISSION SHOULD STRESS THAT USG STRONGLY OPPOSES VIOLATIONS
OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN ALL COUNTRIES.
WHILE NOT EXCUSING INCIDENT AT HEINEMANN ELECTRIC (SA),
YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE UNDERSTAND HEINEMANN ELECTRIC
COMPANY OF TRENTON NEW JERSEY PRESENTLY OWNS MINORITY
SHARE OF HEINEMANN ELECTRIC SA AND THAT A SOUTH AFRICAN
FIRM HAS CONTROLLING INTEREST AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
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MANAGEMENT OF FACTORY IN QUESTION.

2. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE USG HAS MADE KNOWN OUR VIEWS FAVORING ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR WORKERS OF ALL RACES IN SOUTH AFRICA TO THE HEINEMANN COMPANY AND TO OTHER U.S. COMPANIES WITH INTERESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE APARTHEID COMMITTEE IS AWARE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT BOOKLET ENTITLED "EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF U.S. FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA" WHICH WAS ISSUED IN 1973 TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF U.S. COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA ON THE NEED FOR ENLIGHTENED EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES. THE COMMITTE

IS ALSO AWARE OF OUR SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT URGING ALL AMERICAN COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA TO USE ALL AVAILABLE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION TO IMPROVE EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AND TO BE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AFRICAN WORKERS INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF UNREGISTERED TRADE UNIONS. WHILE WE ABHOR APARTHEID AND ITS DISCRIMINATORY INFLUENCES ON LABOR RELATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA, WE BELIEVE THAT STEPS BY A NUMBER OF AMERICAN COMPANIES, ALONG WITH OTHER PROGRESSIVE COMPANIES AND GROUPS IN SOUTH AFRICA, HAVE RESULTED IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE U.S. COMPANIES TO TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN IMPROVING THE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR THEIR BLACK EMPLOYEES. SISCO

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